

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN RIFLEMAN

BETHEL, VERMONT

Oh, I Love Those ROKS! May 28, 1953

Inspiring, that's the word for it. The defiance which the South Koreans can flash before a cheap and jaded world is inspiring.

The Republic of Korea, a battered and bleeding remnant of a nation caught between the murderous red Chinese tiger on one side and the blue-nosed sanctimonious United Nations on the other, the Republic of Korea can say that compromise and surrender are for those who want them but never for the Republic of Korea. Beautiful words! They mean that there are still people who will not exchange imperishable goods like courage and honor for the worthless promises of Western "humanitarians". Syngman Rhee watched the United Nations intriguers betray Chiang Kai-Shek even as they plied him with spoiled canned milk and rotten chocolate bars and made him the victim of all the nasty tricks that Herbert Lehmann's friends could devise, and Syngman Rhee says he will manage to get along without similar favors. South Koreans have learned what Americans have not learned yet: that the difference between the United Nations and the Soviet empire is that the U.N. flies a baby blue flag while the Soviet flies a red one. End of difference. The methods and aims of these two purportedly "rival" systems are identical and Syngman Rhee does well to decline this truce cooked up between the red flag and the blue.

Suppose the Republic of Korea should accept this truce which the red flag and blue flag peacemakers have devised for their own ignoble advantages, what would the Republic of Korea have? Either under a red flag or under a blue flag they would have Chinese occupation troops on their land. The many Koreans who are Christians and who will not meekly give up their Christian faith for the Marxist creed, they know what that means. Like the millions of Christians, they will not merely be massacred, they will be tortured to death, so they figure that if this is to be their fate anyway, they would do better to fight it out proudly, without surrender. Those who are captured and destroyed will endure it, confident that the soul survives. Like all those others in Spain, in Poland, in Czeslovakia and Germany and Russia and Armenia and India they will keep the cross before their eyes while the fire burns and the knife cuts, knowing that no ingenuity of their red tormentors can prolong their pain forever. They will die, the brave ROKS, unsullied by cowardice, untarnished by surrender, and unimpressed by patronizing American "liberators", and history will speak well of them.

But what about us, shivering over here, stooping to any infamy in our frantic hope that we can keep ourselves from discomfort by sacrificing our "protégés"? History will have something to say about the way the United States set out, whistling, to right all wrongs and contain Communism. When the Communists snarled reluctance to be contained, the jovial Americans apologized and handed over control of the country to them and made the day a holiday to boot. All done in the spirit of fun.

Many of us will put all the blame on the other members of the United Nations because of their greedy scrambling for the material rewards of such a truce. The United Nations made the abominable deal but we did not have to accept it. Since we did accept it, let us seek out the man who made the decision to accept it for us.

It wasn't Trucee Harrison. He says himself that he just rode back and forth. He was just a committer. It wasn't Mark Clark, the little Eisenhower. He handed over the paper but it wasn't his paper. He was just a chore boy. Many point to old Winston Churchill but the responsibility is not wholly there, although you're getting warm. It is Churchill's tragic closing chapter that in Korea's Finest Hour, he was not the heroic voice but the voice of betrayal.

No, the burden of this fearful treachery rests on one man, and there he is! Get up Eisenhower, and let the world see you, stripped of your shining armor and draped in the saffron robes of the Yellow Emperor wearing the decoration of the Double Cross. Only yesterday you took it upon yourself in the name of America, in our name, mind you, to promise justice and aid to the oppressed and the betrayed, and look at you now! You have betrayed the brave little nation of Korea into the jaws of hell because your cronies and golfing partners told you to do it. Only yesterday at your inauguration you commanded all your subjects to bow their heads in reverence while you invoked the blessing of God on all you proposed to do. Do you think you will be judged innocent of this betrayal as you so generously have judged yourself innocent of all those other betrayals? You will say you have done what is bestest for the mostest. Tell it to the Marines, because the ROKS won't be listening.

There are opinion leaders in America who ridicule Syngman Rhee and his ROKS but we had better not follow those American pundits into the red fog. We would do better to follow Syngman Rhee and his ROKS because they are going to cling to the Rock of Ages, and that will never crumble away.

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